

I am writing as a member of a new group formed in Pasadena CA to learn more about the need to keep our access to all points of view democratic in nature, as guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution. In particular, it is shocking that the FCC, as a presumably disinterested agency of the Federal government is not waging an aggressive public campaign to inform the public of the real consequences to free and fair information, of these proposed mergers. In a world of genuinely free competition, consumers could be enjoying unlimited local and long-distance telephone calls, as well as high-speed Internet access, for just \$40 -- \$15 for community Internet and \$25 for unlimited phone calls over the Internet. But today, this costs about \$90 more than double the price! The FCC should block these mergers. America is falling behind the rest of the world in broadband deployment. We are now 16th, far behind countries like Japan and Korea, which have opened up the building blocks of broadband phone and cable lines to competitors.